

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

### EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL

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#### EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIAL NOTES

*Malpractice Indemnity Fund.*—Are you one of the 2,220 members of the Society who have intended to contribute to the Fund, or are going to do so, or are thinking about it but have not done so? If you are one of this class, you had better send your check for \$15 and your note for like amount, payable one year after date, immediately.

*Indemnity Fund.*—The correspondence which has developed since the announcement of the creation of the Malpractice Indemnity Fund has been very voluminous. Practically without exception, everyone who has written to the secretary has approved the plan.

One man writes as follows: "Happy is the man that has never been sued or threatened with a suit, but the fateful day may come to any physician, and we had better all stand together to take care of ourselves when we have such a good chance as now is offered." . . .

*Again the Indemnity Fund.*—A member who transmits his check and note as a contribution to this fund, raises the question as to whether there would be any objection to a member also carrying insurance, and whether it would be of any value. There certainly can be no objection. It would be of value only to this extent, that it would conserve the Fund; because, firstly, if such a member was sued, the insurance company would have to bear the expenses of the suit, though our attorneys might coöperate in the actual trial if it were necessary; secondly, if a judgment went against the member the insurance company would have to pay up to the amount of the policy, thus conserving the fund of our own members in our own hands.

*Needed Reform of County Societies.*— . . . There has never been in the history of the State Society a more imperative need for the effective organization and consolidation of the mass of the profession than at the present time. But the State Society labors under a serious disadvantage in so far as its strength is the collective strength of its component county societies. These as the ultimate units must develop greater force and effectiveness in order to aid the State organization, if it is to secure a just regard for the reasonable demands of its members whether before the general public or its representatives. . . .

. . . To remedy this deficiency the policy of a county society must extend beyond the scientific program and the library, however attractive. The county society should encourage a spirit of free association among its members. It should formulate plans tending to increase sociability and provide facilities having this end in view. Societies have been too indifferent in the matter of securing new and desirable members, and they should make every effort to increase membership. Above all, they need leaders of clear insight and in close sympathy with the body of the profession and the movements that affect it, men of marked executive ability whose utterances and unstinted, disinterested activities command attention, respect and confidence, while they carry conviction and actuate others.

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† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

## BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.

Secretary-Treasurer

### Board Proceedings

At a regular meeting of the Board of Medical Examiners held at the State Capitol, Sacramento, October 20 to 23, 1941, there were seventy eight applicants for written examination of all classes, including those graduates of foreign medical schools exempted under Chapter 751, Statutes 1941.

The legal calendar consisted of fourteen licentiates who had been called before the Board, charged with unprofessional conduct.

The following changes were made in the status of licentiates:

Oliver Roy Busch, M. D., Oakland, found guilty and on October 22, 1941, license was suspended for a period of one year from November 1, 1941.

Howard D. Mayers, M. D., Fall River Mills, charged with habitual intemperance, license was revoked on October 22, 1941.

Frederick William Riley, M. D., Los Gatos, charged with aiding and abetting an unlicensed individual, *i. e.*, William F. Hoque, who operated the Valley Rest Home, Los Gatos, where patients were treated with an escharotic paste in an asserted "cure" of cancer, license was revoked on October 23, 1941.

The probationary period of Henry Gross, naturopath, imposed on July 12, 1939, was terminated on October 23, 1941.

The probationary period of Edith M. Stoker, imposed on June 26, 1940, was terminated on October 20, 1941.

The certificate of Oscar Charles Long, revoked on March 10, 1938, was on October 21, 1941, restored and he was placed on five years' probation without narcotic privileges and to report at each Los Angeles meeting.

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Dr. Clark L. Abbott of Oakland was reelected president; Dr. Fred R. DeLappe of Modesto was elected vice-president; and Dr. Charles B. Pinkham was reelected secretary-treasurer.

### News

"His appeal which he carried to the United States Supreme Court having been denied, Dr. Nathan S. Housman of San Francisco, entered San Quentin yesterday, became No. 67,441 and started serving a one to fourteen-year term for perjury which grew out of narcotics violations. Thus, after a fashion, the slim, immaculate physician rejoined his pal, former San Francisco Public Defender Frank J. Egan, now serving a life term for the slaying of Mrs. Jessie Scott Hughes, elderly widow. Egan had used the doctor as an 'alibi' during the murder trial. Doctor Housman is alleged to have given perjured testimony during his first trial on misdemeanor charges of failing to keep proper records of narcotics prescriptions. Now a convicted felon, he faces loss of his physician's license." (Oakland Tribune, November 5, 1941.)

"A new trial for Dr. William Walter Reich, Berkeley physician charged with four counts of illegal voting, was set today for December 1 by Superior Judge Edward J. Tyrrell. Doctor Reich has maintained that he is an Ameri-

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† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6. News Items are submitted by the Secretary of the Board.